



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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### **The National Marine Fisheries Service Reminds Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishermen to Use TEDs and BRDs as Required**

On February 21, 2003, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published new regulations requiring the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) with larger escape openings to protect large adult sea turtles. These new regulations were effective in the Gulf Area on August 21, 2003. NOAA Fisheries' Enforcement is currently boarding and inspecting shrimp vessels throughout the Gulf of Mexico to ensure compliance with these new regulations. Extra emphasis will be paid to the Texas and Louisiana areas after the Texas opening. Therefore, prior to the Texas opening, NOAA Fisheries' Enforcement would like to extend to Gulf shrimp fishermen the opportunity for voluntary, courtesy inspections of their fishing gear to ensure the gear is compliant with the new TED regulations as well as with other requirements such as the use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). To schedule a courtesy inspection, please contact the NOAA Fisheries Enforcement office in Harlingen, Texas at (956) 423-3450.

For more information on the installation and use of TEDs and BRDs, please contact the NOAA Fisheries' Harvesting System Branch at (228) 762-4591. For more information on TED regulations, please contact Bob Hoffman at (727) 570-5312. To report shrimp fishing violations in the Gulf of Mexico, please contact David McKinney, Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge, at 512-916-5401 or 727-570-5344.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

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